

11. The apparatus of claim **10**, wherein the means for calculating action-values for a plurality of actions based on a current state using a trained deep neural network comprises:

- means for extracting features from the first medical image using first convolutional layers of the trained deep neural network;
- means for extracting features from the second medical image using second convolutional layers of the trained deep neural network; and
- means for comparing the extracted features from the first medical image and the extracted features from the second medical image to calculate the action-values for the plurality of actions.

12. The apparatus of claim **11**, wherein the first convolutional layers and the second convolutional layers are implemented with separate weights.

13. The apparatus of claim **10**, wherein the means for computing a deformation field based on the selected action and a deformation model comprises:

- means for encoding deformation for an entirety of the first medical image using a dense model.

14. The apparatus of claim **13**, wherein the means for applying the deformation field to the first medical image to warp the first medical image comprises:

- means for decoding the deformation for the entirety of the first medical image; and
- means for applying the decoded deformation to the first medical image.

15. A non-transitory computer readable medium storing computer program instructions for deformable registration of medical images using an intelligent artificial agent, the computer program instructions defining operations comprising:

- receiving a first medical image and a second medical image;
- calculating action-values for a plurality of actions based on a current state using a trained deep neural network, the current state determined from the first medical image and the second medical image;
- selecting an action from the plurality of actions based on the calculated action-values;
- computing a deformation field based on the selected action and a deformation model;
- applying the deformation field to the first medical image to warp the first medical image; and
- repeating the calculating, the selecting, the computing, and the applying for a plurality of iterations using the warped first medical image as the first medical image to register the first medical image and the second medical image.

16. The non-transitory computer readable medium of claim **15**, wherein calculating action-values for a plurality of actions based on a current state using a trained deep neural network comprises:

- extracting features from the first medical image using first convolutional layers of the trained deep neural network;
- extracting features from the second medical image using second convolutional layers of the trained deep neural network; and
- comparing the extracted features from the first medical image and the extracted features from the second medical image to calculate the action-values for the plurality of actions.

17. The non-transitory computer readable medium of claim **15**, wherein computing a deformation field based on the selected action and a deformation model comprises:

- encoding deformation at particular points in the first medical image that have corresponding points in the second medical image using a correspondence based model.

18. The non-transitory computer readable medium of claim **17**, wherein applying the deformation field to the first medical image to warp the first medical image comprises:

- decoding the deformation at the particular points in the first medical image;
- transforming a mesh of a segmented structure in the first medical image based on the decoded deformation;
- computing a dense deformation field based on the transformation of the mesh; and
- applying the computed dense deformation field to the first medical image.

19. The non-transitory computer readable medium of claim **15**, wherein computing a deformation field based on the selected action and a deformation model comprises:

- modeling deformation of pixels at a location in the first medical image as having a Gaussian distribution; and
- computing a deformation at a particular point in the first medical image based on a distance between the particular point and the location, a magnitude of the Gaussian distribution, and a standard deviation of the Gaussian distribution.

20. The non-transitory computer readable medium of claim **15**, wherein the trained deep neural network is trained to predict the action-values for the plurality of actions based on a plurality of training image pairs with known ground truth transformation parameters using reinforcement learning in which, for each training image pair, a reward for each action of the plurality of actions at a given state is used to train the deep neural network to learn an optimal registration policy.

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